



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Town Council

From: Matt Hart, Town Manager

Date: 9/26/2017

CC: Gary Allyn, Fire Chief; Peter Privitera, Finance Director

Subject: Resolution to Appropriate FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Program Grant and Identify Town Matching Funds

Background and Operational Impact: The Town has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Program for the acquisition of a paramedic support vehicle. The award would cover 80% of the cost of the vehicle and related equipment. The Fire Department would plan to utilize the vehicle primarily to serve as an intercept vehicle to remove our paramedics from the heavier fire apparatus into a smaller more agile vehicle allowing the fire crew to more readily resume other duties and to save wear and tear on the larger vehicles in the fleet. The department could also use the vehicle for transport purposes in the event that a firefighter or police officer is injured, or if the AMR ambulance is delayed and a patient needs immediate transport (this can be an issue during a storm event). In addition, the acquisition of the vehicle would allow for the possibility of future expansion into ambulance transportation at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. This expansion would require approval from the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The department would not plan to utilize the vehicle for the provision of basic life support (BLS) services presently provided by AMR. No special license would be required to operate the vehicle.

Financial Impact: The Fire Department budget funds emergency management initiatives, firefighting services, emergency medical services, fire prevention, station operations and maintenance, and training. The operating budget does not include funding for capital outlay. Town Council adoption of this resolution would have a direct fiscal impact on the FY 2017/18 budget of the Capital Non-recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Fund. In the CNRE Fund, estimated intergovernmental revenue would increase \$200,000 and fund balance in the amount of \$20,000 would be appropriated to fund the purchase of the paramedic support vehicle and related equipment to be utilized in

accordance with the terms of the award. The Town would plan to budget for the future replacement of this vehicle in the CNRE.

Legal Review: Corporation Counsel's office has reviewed and approved the form and legality of the proposed resolution.

Project Schedule: The vehicle and equipment would be purchased following acceptance of the grant and appropriation of the resolution.

Recommendation: The acquisition of the paramedic support vehicle would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fire Department's ALS service, with a relatively modest initial investment on the part of the Town. Consequently, staff recommends that Town Council approve the attached resolution approving the receipt of this grant award.

Attachments: See attached resolution.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
(FEMA) - ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS PROGRAM GRANT AND IDENTIFY TOWN
MATCHING FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Fire Department applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency-Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$200,000 with required Town matching funds of \$20,000, and

WHEREAS, the grant application requested funding for a heavy duty department support/utility vehicle and associated equipment, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the vehicles and equipment is \$220,000, with grant funds of \$200,000 and a required Town match of \$20,000 said funds being available in the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund (CNRE),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the FEMA-Assistance to Firefighters Grant is hereby accepted, the purchase of the vehicle and equipment is authorized, and the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget of the CNRE Fund is hereby amended as follows:

CNRE Fund

Estimated Revenues

33-910800-30506-9049	FEMA Grant	\$200,000
33-910800-30506-9399	Use of Fund Balance	\$20,000

Appropriations

33-910800-30506-3240	Vehicles	\$200,000
33-910800-30506-3187	Equipment	\$20,000

Hart

9/26/17